

# Japanese latest addition to Modern Language Dept



"AT LEAST THIS ONE WILL BE AN EASY A!"

by Deb Bettenhausen

For the first time since the early 1960's, Japanese will be taught as a regular foreign language class by the UNL Modern Languages Dept.

The class, taught by Nelly Cheng, is the only Asian language course offered at NU. Cheng has taught Japanese in the University's Extension Division for the past two years.

Cheng said the new course is possible by a grant from the Japan Foundation, a group created by the Japanese government to promote understanding and knowledge of the Japanese language and culture.

The foundation intends to provide \$7,000 to support the program this year and has pledged its support for an additional two years, Cheng said.

Twelve students are presently enrolled in the Japanese class, most of whom have had some contact with the language or have Japanese friends, Cheng said. She said Japanese is no harder to learn than the European languages although students may tend to shy away from the unfamiliar characters of the Japanese language.

"The written system of Japanese is a mixture of Chinese characters," Cheng said. The language contains 46 phonetic symbols.

"The spoken language is emphasized first," Cheng said.

"Romanized Japanese helps in pronunciation, but the written system should be introduced as soon as possible. Japanese words with English letters rather than Chinese characters.

One aspect of the Japanese language is the level of formality. "When Japanese people speak, they are conscious of whom they are talking to," Cheng said.

They speak differently when conferring with a family member, friend or someone older than themselves, she said, and although some slang is used in Japan, only semi-formal language is taught in her class.

Cheng believes persons involved in the Asian studies program "should have a clear knowledge of an oriental language," and the Japanese class provides an excellent opportunity for such education.

She said she hopes interest in the course will increase and more students will enroll. The second semester course will be a continuation of this semester's work. Another beginning Japanese class will be offered first semester of the 1975-76 school year.

Any student can meet the 16 credit-hour language requirement in two years through four consecutive courses in Japanese. The first two semester courses meet five times a week. The second-year courses will each be three credit-hour courses.

## Did you know that

Saturn entered Richard Nixon's Tenth House of career in June, 1972 coinciding with the Watergate break-in? Saturn has been in his tenth for these past years, watching over the gradual fall of his administration.

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## short stuff

The Campus Crusade for Christ will sponsor "College Life," an informal kickoff meeting, today at 8 p.m. in the Phi Gamma Delta house. Will Sanborn, campus director of Crusade for Christ, will speak on "Jesus, the Revolutionary."

Nancy Ryan, a former UNL student, will present a multi-media discussion of her travels in the People's Republic of China at Sheldon Auditorium Friday. The presentation will begin at 1 p.m. and is open to the public. No admission charged.

Want to help students through state and local government?

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ASUN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE

9:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 29  
Union

Room will be posted

There are still a few more places left in  
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for more information call

472-2545

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Talk to Sally Gordon, Nelson Potter,

Sky Houser, or whoever else you can find

## calendar

### Thursday

8:30 a.m.—Student Affairs Staff  
Nebraska Union  
2 p.m.—Financial Aids Workshop-Union  
5:30 p.m.—Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia-Union  
6 p.m.—Builders, executive-Union  
6:30 p.m.—Builders, board-Union  
7 p.m.—Recreation Dept., Intramural Football Managers Union  
7:30 p.m.—SIMS, Introductory Lecture-Union  
9 p.m.—ASUN Legislature Liaison-Union